

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

**1.-5. (Canceled)**

**6. (New)** A method for retarding plaster setting and plaster preparations, comprising admixing with said plaster or said plaster preparations the following composition:

- a) tartaric acid in an amount of at least 0.01 to 1.0 weight % relative to the plaster amount;
- b) sodium trimetaphosphate in an amount of 0.05 to 0.5 weight %, relative to the plaster amount; and
- c) 0 to at least 0.01 weight % , relative to said plaster or said plaster preparations, sodium polyphosphate with an average chain length of at least 4 to 50 phosphate units.

**7. (New)** A method for retarding plaster setting and plaster preparations, comprising admixing with said plaster or said plaster preparations the following composition:

- a) tartaric acid in an amount of at least 0.01 to 1.0 weight % relative to the plaster amount;
- b) sodium trimetaphosphate in an amount of 0.05 to 0.5 weight %, relative to the plaster amount; and

- c) 0 to at least 0.01 weight % , relative to said plaster or said plaster preparations,  
sodium polyphosphate with an average chain length of at least 4 to 50 phosphate  
units; which is further  
characterized in that the components b) said sodium trimetaphosphate and/or c) sodium  
polyphosphate are mixed together in the dry state and are added to the plaster to be  
retarded in the form of a fine-particle powder, having a particle size distribution for  
which at least 95% of the components are smaller than 200µm.
8. (New) The method for retarding plaster setting and plaster preparations as defined in  
claim 6, characterized in that said composition comprises an amount of sodium  
polyphosphate of at least 0.01 weight %, relative to the plaster amount.
9. (New) An additive composition for retarding plaster setting and plaster preparations  
comprising the following components:
- a) tartaric acid in an amount of at least 0.01 to 1.0 weight %, relative to the plaster  
amount;
- b) sodium trimetaphosphate in an amount of 0.05 to 0.5 weight %, relative to the plaster  
amount, and
- c) 0 to at least 0.01 weight per cent sodium polyphosphate, having an average chain  
length of at least 4 to 50 phosphate units, wherein the components are added to the  
plaster and the plaster preparation to be retarded in the form of a fine-particle powder.

10. (New) Plaster and plaster preparations further comprising the composition of claim 9.